

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

EB-07 /068 W

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R 241502Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3799

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US XA ET

SUBJECT: RVOG ON THE APPOINTMENT OF NATHANIEL DAVIS

1. RVOG BROADCAST MARCH 21, IN ITS "TOPIC" SERIES, A FIVE-MINUTE ESSAY ENTITLED "THE MYSTERY OF NATHANIEL DAVIS." EMBASSY HAS PROCURED TEXT AND IS POUCHING SAME TO AF/P.

2. ESSAY APPARENTLY WRITTEN IN-HOUSE BY RVOG STAFFER HIRUY AMANUEL, BELIEVED TO BE ERITREAN.

3. SUBSTANCE OF ESSA REHASHES CHARGES OF DAVIS ASSOCIATION WITH CIA DESTABILIZATION OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT; HIS ALLEGED LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS; THE ADVERSE REACTION IN CERTAIN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTAL AND US CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES TO DAVIS' APPOINTMENT; THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S UNWILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW THE NOMINATION; THE NEW YORK TIMES CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SECRETARY'S DEFENSE OF THE NOMINATION; ETC.

4. THE ESSAY CALLS "THE NATHANIEL DAVIS AFFAIR" SYMPTOMATIC OF "WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE AFRICAN POLICY OF THE US." IT ASSERTS THAT AFRICA IS NOT AN AREA OF PRIORITY FOR THE US AT THE PRESENT TIME AND GOES ON TO STATE THAT US POLICY TOWARDS IT IS THAT SET FORTH IN A 1969 MEMORANDUM (NSSM) FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE THEN  
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PRESIDENT. THE ESSAY STATES THAT, ACCORDING TO THIS MEMORANDUM,

US POLICY SHOULD SEEK NOT TO ALIENATE THE VORSTER REGIME; TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENTS IN "WHITE-DOMINATED TERRITORIES" AND US NAVAL CALLS IN SOUTH AFRICA; TO RELAX SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA; "PLAY DOWN" THE ISSUE OF NAMIBIA'S ILLEGAL OCCUPANCY; MAINTAIN PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO RACIAL REPRESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA BUT RELAX THE POLITICAL ISOLATION AND ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS ON THE WHITE STATES. THE ESSAY CONCLUDES THAT SUCH A (US) POLICY IS REASON ENOUGH FOR COOL RELATIONS BETWEEN MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ESSAY WAS STIMULATED BY THE EPMG OR THAT IT REFLECTS THE LATTER'S VIEWS. GIVEN THE PUBLICITY WHICH THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO THE OAU DECLARATION ON AMBASSADOR DAVIS' NOMINATION HAS RECEIVED, WE DEEM IT LIKELY THAT THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF PERTINENT USG VIEWS. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ALLEGED US POLICY LINE TOWARDS AFRICA IS, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, LARGELY TAKEN FROM PRESS DISCUSSIONS OF ONE OPTION OF THE NSSM ABOVE REFERRED TO. HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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